

NEWS RELEASE

www.dot.ca.gov/dist07

Date: November 15, 2003
District: District 7, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties
Contact: Jeanne Bonfilio
Phone: (213) 897-3630

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

I-5 CONSTRUCTION IN SANTA CLARITA -- MAJOR MILESTONE REACHED: TWO LANES/RAMPS TO RE-OPEN IN TIME FOR THANKSGIVING COMMUTERS

Santa Clarita -- The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) advises motorists traveling on the Golden State Freeway (I-5) near Magic Mountain, that one northbound lane and one southbound lane which have been closed over two years for bridge replacement construction, will re-open by 7 a.m. Wednesday, November 17.

Since July, 2002, one northbound lane and one southbound lane on I-5 have been closed from Magic Mountain Parkway to Rye Canyon Road for two bridge replacement projects which were done concurrently -- one at the Santa Clara River Bridge and another at Magic Mountain Parkway -- in partnership with the Newhall Land and Farming Company and the Federal Highway Administration. The two projects, which cost \$34.3 million combined, were constructed simultaneously in order to minimize impacts to the traveling public. The Magic Mountain Parkway on- and off-ramps were also closed in order to facilitate construction work; and the ramps will also re-open by 7 a.m. Wednesday morning.

While the freeway will be back to four lanes in each direction, additional work remains which will still require intermittent overnight and daytime lane closures. Weather permitting, all construction should be completed by January, 2005, two months ahead of schedule. At that time Caltrans will hold a special completion ceremony.

This heavily traveled corridor is used by over 50 million vehicles annually and over a half-million trucks per month. The California Highway Patrol and the Freeway Service Patrol have been integral partners in the effort to keep the freeways safe and enhance mobility throughout the construction zone.

CONTINUED...



NEWS RELEASE

PAGE 2 OF 2

In partnership with the Newhall Land and Farming Company, the City of Santa Clarita, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Federal Highway Administration, important transportation improvement projects are being provided to this thriving region that will not only benefit commuters, but continue to attract businesses and jobs to the region while helping to move goods and services more efficiently.

Caltrans thanks the motoring public, businesses in the Commerce/Industrial Centers and along The Old Road, and the residents and commuters in the Santa Clarita Valley for their patience during these freeway improvement projects.

#

